

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, as amended, remain herein. Claim 1 has been amended. Support for the amendment may be found throughout the specification (see, e.g., page 10, line 23 to page 11, line 1).

1. Figures 7A, 7B, and 8 have been amended to moot the objections thereto.

2. Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Mitchell U.S. Patent 2,004,918. The Office Action admits that the AAPA fails to disclose a turning operation and a bendable turning transmission shaft, but alleges that Mitchell teaches what is missing from AAPA.

Applicants' claim 1 recites a part positioning device (41) for adjusting positions of target parts (3, 4, 5) of an adjustment target object (1) provided with the adjustment target parts (3, 4, 5) and adjusting members (7), the adjustment target object (1) having an article reference surface (S) defined thereon, the adjustment target parts (3, 4, 5) having part reference surfaces (3a, 4a, 5a) formed thereon respectively, wherein a relative height and inclination of each of the part reference surfaces (3a, 4a, 5a) is adjusted with respect to the article reference surface (S) of the adjustment target object (1) by turning the adjusting members (7), the part positioning device comprising: support members (48) for supporting the adjustment target object (1) at a plurality of locations; a measuring device (51) for measuring the height and inclination of each of the part reference surfaces (3a, 4a, 5a) of the adjustment target parts (3, 4, 5); a turning operation device (54) for turning each of the adjusting members (7); and fixing devices (73) for fixing the adjustment target object (1) supported by the support members (48) in a normal position, wherein: each turning operation device (54) comprises an engaging part (55) which is

engageable/disengageable with/from an engaged part (8) formed in the adjusting member (7), a turning operation part (57) which is turned through an external operation, and a bendable turning transmission shaft (59) which transmits the turning of the turning operation part (57) to the engaging part (55), each engaging part (55) is disposed at a position facing the adjusting member (7) and moved in the engagement/disengagement direction with respect to the engaged part (8) by moving the turning operation part (57) in an axial direction of the turning transmission shaft (59) through an external operation, each turning operation part (57) is directed to a side where an operator performs operation, and the fixing devices (73) have fixing members (76) capable of moving to a point above the support members (48) to prevent the adjustment target object (1) from moving upward.

Neither the AAPA nor Mitchell teaches or suggests applicants' claimed part positioning device (41) comprising fixing devices (73) for fixing the adjustment target object (1) supported by the support members (48) in a normal position, wherein the fixing devices (73) have fixing members (76) capable of moving to a point above the support members (48) to prevent the adjustment target object (1) from moving upward. This structure prevents the adjustment target object (1) from moving away from the support members (48) when the engaging part (55) engages with the engaged part (8). Thus, the claimed structure achieves improved efficiency and safety of the adjustment work and is not obvious in view of the prior art.

Indeed, in Mitchell, when knob 72 is pushed downwardly, the flexible shaft 23 moves to one side in the axial direction and the clutch member 31 engages with the clutch member 37 (see Mitchell at FIG. 3). The turning force is transmitted to the electrical control device 21 through the flexible shaft 23, shaft 29, and clutch members 31 and 37. In addition, when knob 72 is pulled up, the flexible shaft 23 moves to the other side in the axial direction and the clutch

member 31 disengages from the clutch member 37 (see Mitchell at FIG. 2). However, Mitchell does not disclose applicants' fixing members which prevent the adjustment target object from moving upward. Thus, unlike applicants' claimed part positioning device, Mitchell does not achieve superior efficiency and safety of the adjustment work.

Thus, neither the AAPA nor Mitchell discloses or suggests any of applicants' claims. In addition, there is no disclosure or suggestion in any of the AAPA, Mitchell, or anything else in this record that would have suggested the desirability of modifying or combining any portions thereof effectively to anticipate or render obvious applicants' claimed invention. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Accordingly, the application is now in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The PTO is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293. If further amendments would place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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